W. John Wilkins.

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PITTSBURGH GAZETTE

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POLITICAL CENTINEL.

LETTER I.

SIR,

THOUGH I might plead want of leiſure and capacity, as my excuſe, yet your requeſt that I ſhould communicate to you ſuch information as I am capable of, reſpecting the preſent ſituation, intereſts and dangers of the commonwealth of Pennſylvania; ſhall be complied with in the ſame manner as if it was the call of my country, which commands obedience in preference to every other earthly regard.

In order to know what kind of ſociety we are, we muſt not content ourſelves with ſaying, that we have adopted a democratic or commonwealth form of government; we muſt underſtand what the nature, and ſpecial principles of this government are; we muſt underſtand the duties, which, according to the nature of our political compact, we owe to our country; and what are thoſe principles which each of us ought to imbibe, and in which we ought to inſtruct our children, for whoſe ſakes we have ſpent ſo much blood and treaſure?

In a democracy the people are in ſome reſpects the ſovereign, and in others the ſubjects. The collective body of the people, conſiſting of all the particular families, are poſſeſſed of the ſovereign power, but they can no way exert it but by their votes, which is the expreſſion of their own will, and which ſovereign will of theirs, can only be put into that form which we call laws, and thoſe laws executed by thoſe whom the people appoint to theſe ſacred truſts, by their ſuffrages; every freeman that is qualified to vote may alſo be voted for; this is the ſpecial nature of our government.

We are next to enquire what are the principles neceſſary to put a government of this ſpecial nature in motion, and to make it anſwer the great ends deſigned thereby. The great and eſſential principle of ſuch a government is virtue; in a deſpotic government the principle of fear anſwers every purpoſe, indeed, any other principle under it would be dangerous, or uſeleſs with reſpect to political intereſts. In a monarchy, limited by laws, honor is with great addreſs, made a ſubſtitute for virtue, and anſwers every political deſign; but in a democracy, where the mighty arm of the deſpot, to impreſs with fear, and deal out deſtructive vengeance at pleaſure; or where the grandeur of the monarch, with his nobles, honors, titles and armies, to induce or compel obedience to the laws are wanting; if virtue is gone, the ſpirit of a democracy is gone alſo, and the form muſt ſoon follow; if the adminiſtration, in a limited monarchy be bad, a change of miniſters and meaſures redreſſes the miſchief, and ſets things to rights again; this can eaſily be done by the monarch following other advice, or ſhaking off his indolence, for which his own, and family's intereſt is a ſufficient motive. But when a popular government, ſuſpends its laws, breaks its conſtitution, and becomes corrupt in its meaſures, this can only proceed from the corruption of the people, and the ſtate is certainly undone.

But you will aſk, ſir, what I mean by this political virtue? I anſwer, it is a moſt ſimple thing; it is a love of the republic; it is a ſenſation, rather than a conſequence of acquired knowledge, a ſenſation that may be felt by the meaneſt, as well as the higheſt perſon in the ſtate. When the common people adopt good maxims they adhere to them ſteadier than thoſe we call gentlemen. It is very rare that corruption commences with the common people, if they have not generally the moſt perfect knowledge, they have from that very defect, the ſtronger attachment to the eſtabliſhed laws and cuſtoms.

The love of our country is conducive to a purity of morals; and again, good morals is conducive to the love of our country.

A love of the republic in a democracy, is a love of the democracy itſelf; and a love of the democracy is a love of equality; it is likewiſe a love of frugality and induſtry; as every individual ought to have here the ſame political happineſs, and the ſame advantages, they ought conſequently to taſte the ſame pleaſures, and form the ſame hopes, which cannot be expected but from a general frugality.

In monarchies and deſpotic governments equality is not the aim, this does not ſo much as enter peoples thoughts; the whole ambition is for ſuperiority. People of the very loweſt condition deſire to emerge from their obſcurity, and to lord it over their fellow ſubjects; this is according to the nature of things: great wealth in ſuch governments is only valuable, as it enables the poſſeſſor to procure diſtinction of rank.

But the love of equality in a democracy, limits ambition to the ſole deſire, the ſole happineſs of doing greater ſervices to our country, than the reſt of our fellow citizens; we cannot all render her equal ſervices, but we ought all to ſerve her with equal alacrity. At our coming into the world we contract a vaſt debt to our country, which we can never diſcharge. The good ſenſe and happineſs of individuals depend greatly on the mediocrity of their talents and fortune; therefore, a republic, where the laws have placed many in a middling ſtation, as it is compoſed of wiſe men, it will be wiſely governed; as it is compoſed of happy men, it will enjoy an extreme of political happineſs.

The love of equality and frugality is greatly excited by equality and frugality themſelves, therefore, it is a true maxim, that in order to love equality and frugality in a republic, theſe virtues muſt have been firſt eſtabliſhed by law, though it may be proper ſometimes that the laws ſhould not ſeem to tend directly to the end which they propoſe.

Though equality be the very ſoul of a democracy, yet it is ſo extremely difficult to eſtabliſh, that an extreme exactneſs would be inconvenient: but it might be the buſineſs of particular laws to level, as it were, the inequalities, by the duties laid upon the rich, and the eaſe, with reſpect to public burthens afforded to the poor, and this the laws of Pennſylvania have already attempted; people are taxed according to the value of their property, and the poor, who have no property, pay no tax. But it is moderate riches alone that will give or ſuffer ſuch a compenſation to the public: for as to men of overgrown eſtates, every thing which does not contribute to advance their own power and honor, is conſidered by them as an injury; and as ſuch men conſider themſelves as having an intereſt different from, and a claim ſuperior to their fellow citizens, they cannot love equality, therefore will as it were, naturally be apt to undermine and ſubvert a government; it is beyond controverſy that a nation of atheiſts, could not ſupport a commonwealth government, for not having the leaſt reſtraint by which one evil is able to controul another, but depending entirely upon virtue, where there is no reverence of good, there can be no confidence, no oath; no integrity, conſequently no democracy: this is evident from the hiſtory of mankind; the ancient republics preferred every evil to that of breaking their oaths. Diſtinction of ranks and honors are inconſiſtent with a democracy; it was this that perpetually diſtracted, and finally ruined the greateſt republic that ever was under the ſun, viz. Rome. England, in the late civil wars, was a curious and ſtriking example: the people made the moſt brave and ſtrenuous efforts to eſtabliſh democracy; but equality, and other democratic virtues being a wanting, the government continually changed, and the people amazed, ſought every where for democracy, without being able to find it, at length they were obliged to have recourſe to the very government they ſo much laboured to aboliſh. The inequality of rank and wealth in England can never admit of democracy.

But, ſir, by this time you will ſay I labour this ſubject too much; my reaſon is, becauſe it cannot be too generally underſtood; under other forms of government, it is ſufficient if the rulers underſtand the political intereſts of the nation, the common people have nothing to do, but to enjoy the protection, and obey the commands of authority. But with us, where government is founded on the authority of the people, and exerciſed according to their ſuffrage, every man ought to be a politician, it ought to be a neceſſary part of education, and ſtand in the next rank to our knowledge of God and religion.

In what is above advanced you will not be diſpleaſed to find ſo much taken from the incomparable Monteſquieu's Spirit of Laws; though not quoted in a regular manner: but theſe ſentiments have not only the authority of this great author, and many others; but have their foundation in the nature of things, and were well underſtood by our patriots who formed the commonwealth government, at the late revolution witneſs a paragraph in the bill of rights of the ſtates: "A frequent recurrence to the fundamental principles of the conſtitution, and a conſtant adherence to thoſe of piety, juſtice, moderation, temperance, induſtry, and frugality are abſolutely neceſſary to preſerve the advantages of liberty, and to maintain a free government, &c." theſe are the words of the Boſton conſtitution; and they are nearly the ſame in that of Pennſylvania and ſome others.

It is, ſir, with a conſtant eye to theſe principles, that I will in ſome of my following letters, examine ſome intereſting particulars reſpecting the preſent ſituation of our government.

But I think you are probably by this time alarmed; that you are even willing to part on the beſt terms you can, with a government ſo precarious, however free; you are doubtleſs ſenſible, that though a government of the nobles (called an ariſtocracy) would not loſe much, nay, might gain by adopting the monarchial form, yet the corruption of a democracy leads directly to deſpotiſm, this is the natural cauſe, viz. from the moſt exalted degree of freedom, to the moſt degrading ſtate of ſlavery; and this hath been the numbing fate of all thoſe who have made the experiment. But let us not be diſcouraged too much; Pennſylvania, and many of the other ſtates enjoy and have long enjoyed much of that equality, and practiſed many of thoſe virtues, ſuitable to a free government; and at the revolution patriotiſm, and every free and ſocial virtue poſſeſſed, or ſeemed to poſſeſs, almoſt every breaſt, how did people then exert themſelves from the alone motive to their country? But what a langour? what a contracted, ſelf-intereſted ſpirit now prevails? An undue proportion of diſtreſs with ſome; expectation too high raiſed with others; and an avaricious ſpirit of ſpeculation with very many; ſeems for a time to have enervated our principles, and borne down our love to our country; but luxury, more than any thing elſe, threateus our ruin; how did we deny ourſelves of foreign delicacies at our tables, and finery in our dreſs? and how have we ſince indulged ourſelves? and at the ſame time neglected the ſocial virtues. But we are yet a people of encreaſing good ſenſe, and theſe evils however prevalent will work their own cure the calls of juſtice and alarms of danger, will bring us to ourſelves; we can only be great, and free, in proportion as we are juſt, and induſtrious. We ſeem to have thought that the happy iſſue of the war completed our ſocial bleſſings; but this was a great miſtake, for it was only thereby put in our power to be reſpectable and proſperous, or contemptible and miſerable as a nation, and to eſtabliſh or ruin our national character forever; and, it is yet to be decided whether the revolution muſt ultimately be conſidered as a bleſſing or a curſe, not to the preſent age alone, for with our fate will the deſtiny of unborn millions be involved;" theſe are the expreſſions of a man whoſe name is dear to us, viz. Gen. Waſhington.

Let us therefore eagerly imbibe ourſelves; and inculcate on each other, a love of the laws and of our country; and ſeriouſly conſider that this love requires a conſtant preference of public, to private intereſts, for patriotiſm or love of our country, is juſt this preference itſelf; and as I ſaid before it is eſſential to democracies, where alone the government is entruſted to private citizens, and government is like every thing elſe to preſerve it we muſt love it; has it ever been heard of that princes were not fond of monarchy, or that deſpotic princes did not love arbitrary power.

Every thing therefore depends on eſtabliſhing this love in a republic, and to inſpire it ought to be the principal buſineſs of education; but the ſureſt way of inſtilling it into children, is for parents to ſet the example; the young people are rarely ſpoiled until thoſe of maturer age are already ſunk into corruption. I wiſh it to be obſerved that the equality and liberty, the love of which I recommend, is not that which the ſavages enjoy, no, it is a political equality and liberty; an equality as citizens, viz. equality of rank, protection, privilege, &c. and a liberty to obey the laws, and ſubmit to the orders and officers of our own government; a liberty to clothe men with authority, and to obey and ſupport the authority which we have

delegated; a liberty decently to scrutinize the administration of government, and obtain redress of grievances; this is a liberty which people in absolute governments do not pretend to. In my next I shall take some notice of our federal situation. In the mean time, sir, believe me to be invariably your's, &c.

For the PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

THERE is one transaction of mine, as a member of the legislative body, of which I did not take notice in my general address, because it was local, and respected the inhabitants of Pittsburgh only: but as it has been misunderstood by some, and misrepresented by others, it may be allowable in me to give my relation of it; more especially as the clergyman of Pittsburgh, in the paper of last week, has introduced it to public view, and in my opinion, has not done himself or me perfect justice.

That the transaction may be the more clearly understood, I will take the liberty of stating some preliminary circumstances.

When the clergyman first presented himself in Pittsburgh, it was by introduction to me. I stated to him simply and precisely the prospect of a support from this town. That the people united, might have it in their power to make up an adequate salary; not otherwise. That they were of different denominations, but liberal; and with prudent conduct towards them might be brought together, and preserved under one roof in assembling for divine service,

This representation seemed pleasing to the clergyman, and accordingly a subscription paper was made out, with a promissory obligation, to pay to him, &c. as pastor of *the church of Pittsburgh*. A short time afterwards, the clergyman expressed a wish that we would send what he called a *call*, to the presbytery whence he came. I recollect to have made objections to the word, as savouring of the *conventicle*, and to the *measure* as unnecessary. We cared nothing about his presbytery. It was himself with whom we had to deal. However, as it was a matter of small moment, if my memory serves me, the *measure* was adopted, but the *word* was changed to *invitation*. Both in the *subscription paper* and in the *invitation*, the phrase *Presbyterian congregation* was avoided. Public notice was given, and at a meeting of the people, though not very general, a committee was chosen to transact the business of the church. It was stipulated expressly with the clergyman, that he should baptise and admit to privilege generally, at the recommendation of the committee, without enquiry as to what denomination they might belong. It was stipulated expressly that any other gentleman of an ecclesiastical character, occasionally present, should be admitted to preach in the church, at the approbation of the committee.

A short time after the clergyman had his residence amongst us, it was proposed to petition the legislature to incorporate our church in order to take from the Messrs. Penns a conveyance of a lot or two of ground in the town of Pittsburgh for the site of a church or churches, and for a grave yard. I had the honor to be appointed with the clergyman to draw the petition. I drew the first draught and submitted it to the clergyman. He made a fresh draught of it without any alteration save the insertion of the words *Presbyterian congregation*. To these I objected, as contrary to the liberal principle on which the church was instituted, and as what would give an instant alarm, and produce a dismemberment of it. Nay, as the people were too few to support a clergyman, divided, it would put an end to the church altogether. This reasoning prevailed, and the words were struck out. If my memory serves me, I signed the petition with others, and it was put into the hands of the clergyman, to be carried by him, or transmitted to Philadelphia.

When I took my seat in the house of assembly, I made enquiry for the petition. The clerk could not find it. I observed on the minutes, that a member of the preceeding house had presented a bill for the incorporating the *Presbyterian congregation* of Pittsburgh. The bill was found upon the files. It had been once read and no more. I called it up for a second reading, but was told by the speaker, that the business of the former house could not be taken up in the present. I now moved to read it as the first time, which was granted. In reading, I moved to strike out the words *Presbyterian congregation*, and insert the general term of Christian Society * in their place. The words were struck out, and the general term inserted. In this state the bill was published for consideration, and in this state remains at this hour.

It may be said I was not instructed by the society to take up this business in the house, very true; but I had conceived they would think themselves under obligation to me for this attention to the local interests of Pittsburgh. If I have been unfortunate in giving myself trouble, I hope it is pardonable; more especially as the copying and reading of the bill by the clerk, the publishing for consideration, &c. the bill being of a private nature, cost me money, and it will be punishment enough to have been at this expence, without thanks for it.

It may be said I was not warranted in bringing forward a bill under the general term of *Christian Society*. This will depend upon the facts already stated. I This will depend upon the facts already stated. I did not recollect the term in our petition; but I tho't this was it. However it appears to have been of the same import, viz. the *Church of Pittsburgh*. It was not my intention to have had the bill passed into a law until I had returned to Pittsburgh, and laid what was done before the committee. In that case they might have given me what instructions they thought proper, and I should have obeyed them.

I was early informed in Philadelphia, that the inhabitants of Pittsburgh had entered into an agreement to be incorporated under the denomination of *Presbyterian*. I said it was well, the bill should be altered to that stile. I wrote a paragraph to that effect to the Pittsburgh Gazette. On the return of James Barr, my colleague, to the house, I was informed by him that this agreement and a representation to the house was in the hands of Mr. Findley. I said it was well, all things should be done as desired. A short time before the close of the session, Findley presented me with the agreement and the representation; I was struck with some words which held me up in an unfavorable point of view with the house. I told Findley that I should not present that paper, and that if he did, I would consider it as an additional insult to those I had already received from him. That there was another session in which the business could be done, and I was well persuaded, that when I returned to Pittsburgh, and represented to the people the damage it would do themselves and me to have the memorial, in which my name was used, laid before the house; so far as respected me, they would change it.

I was informed in Philadelphia that it had been represented by the clergyman of Pittsburgh, that in assigning the reasons for using the general term *Christian Society* in the bill, I had held up the inhabitants as *not capable of determining between one denomination and another*. To give the words that I used, my memory serves me not; but I will venture to say, that I used not an expression which any man of candour could interpret as placing the people in an unfavorable point of view. Am I known to possess so little address in the management of causes in the course of my profession, as to say any thing to hurt the client I mean to serve?*

I am informed since I returned, by George Wallace and Robert Galbraith, esquires, that the clergyman assured them, the assembly had refused to incorporate unless under the name of *Episcopal* or *Presbyterian*†. This was not so; they will incorporate under any term. I believe it gave the most sensible of them pleasure to find that we had so much liberality to the westward as to throw off the distinction of sect, and be contented with the general name of *Christian*.---- However, certain it is, that every man being informed of our *peculiar and local circumstances in this town, must have approved of it.*

So far of my conduct in the house with respect to the church; I regret that I meddled with it at all. But it was from a wish to carry into effect every object for the people of Pittsburgh; and though my conduct may not have given general satisfaction, I am well persuaded there is not an individual, save the clergyman himself, who will not excuse it.*

My object, from the commencement, has been well known to the people of this town. It was to keep them united, that we might be able to support a church. Moreover, in a small village, especially, it must be painful to see families with whom we converse every day, assembling together in every amusement, and yet separating in receiving good advice for the conduct of life and manners. I should suppose it must be particularly so to a clergyman who had considered a number of people as his flock, to see them depart from him, merely for the sake of a term, which he ought to be above considering as of any consequence.

Archbishop Tillotson earnestly endeavoured in England, to unite the dissenting and Episcopal churches, but was disappointed. It was the hope of some great men, with whom I have had the honor to converse, since the revolution, that in these states we might be able, by yielding on both sides, to constitute an *American church*.

A laudable advance has been made towards it by the Episcopal denomination, the controverted articles being retrenched, and the liturgy amended. I had been sanguine in the idea that in this town, from a variety of circumstances, all distinction might have been for a long time kept out of view.

It was often my language to the clergyman that he might be *Presbyterian*, attend the synod, provided he did not stay too long away, and no one would make enquiries about it. The people habituated by degrees to the *Presbyterian* mode of worship, would cease to have a prejudice against it, the younger part of the society especially, and he might have them what he pleased. The prejudice was not against the substance, so much as the name; and that ought to be kept out of view. Cæsar declined the name of king, because the memory of the Tarquins was odious to the Roman people. Cromwell declined it, because a part of the nation were opposed to it, on a like principle. They both had the same authority, and all advantages, without the odium of the term.

What is obtained by the incorporation of a *Presbyterian congregation*. Surely the lots could have been vested for the same use, and in the same persons, as the trustees of the *Christian Society* or *the church of Pittsburgh*. Experience will convince the clergyman that his industry to have the term Presbyterian brought into view, has made an unfavorable impression on the minds of many, and will abridge his power of doing service.

It will abridge his salary. This consideration may affect his feelings: the other will not. I shall pay a proper respect to his publication in my next.

H. H. BRACKENRIDGE.

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* The word religious, was added by a member. I thought it a tautology, and meant to have it struck out.

* The foundation the clergyman pretends to have had for his assertion, are the notes taken by the short hand writer without the bar. From the noise in the gallery, and other causes, these are often inaccurately taken; but I have looked over them, and though the language and some of the ideas are very different from those expressed by me; yet I can see nothing in these notes which could warrant him in his deduction. The truth is, he did not *believe it himself*, but made use of this artifice at my expence, to inflame the people, and induce them to shew that they were capable of distinguishing denominations, by praying to be incorporated under that of *Presbyterian*.

† The only foundation the clergyman had for this, was an observation of a member, Wynkoop of Bucks, *that before we were incorporated we ought to chuse our religion*; this was laughable enough; as if the Christian religion was none. It produced a general smile in the house. Mr. Wynkoop is a very modest man: he blushed and sat down.

I have not the highest opinion of the good sense of the clergyman; but I think it impossible he could be such a fool as to belive the assembly cared under what term we were incorporated; and therefore I am persuaded he knew what he said to Messieurs Wallace and Galpraith, to be otherwise.

* As the bill was brought forward solely by me, and at my own expence, I conceive I have a right to do with it what I please; and as it has not given general satisfaction, the moment I return I can have it laid aside. At a future period any kind of bill can be introduced that is thought proper. Nothing would have been done if I had not taken it up, and therefore on its being thrown out, things are in the same situation in which they would otherwise have remained.

Foreign Intelligence.

GENEVA, January 16.

THE people in this city, and in several other parts of Switzerland, have experienced very much distress of late, owing to a general want of employment, and a great scarcity of provisions, which have prevailed throughout most of the cantons for some time past; these causes have occasioned many of the poor sort to emigrate to France and Italy, in hopes of gaining that employment in those countries, which they unfortunately want in their own. Many have entered for soldiers, and the women and children are truly in deplorable circumstances, although every method has been taken for their relief.

LONDON, March 17.

In one of the islands which the late Captain Cooke visited, a new species of hemp has been discovered of so strong a fibre, that though unspun, it requires great force to break it. It is fine, has a silky appearance, and it is thought will be a most valuable discovery for marine and commercial purposes.

When Mrs. Hastings was at the Cape of Good Hope on her return to this country, she made an apology to the governor's lady for waiting on her in an undress--and yet this undress was not worth less than 10,000l. It was a riding habit, the epaulets of which, displayed some of the richest diamonds ever seen, and were supposed to be of the value above mentioned.

St. PATRICK's DAY.

Early on Saturday morning, fome hours before dawn of day, arrived in town, that annual diſturber of public peace, St. Patrick. He began his revels in the purlieus of St. Gilas's, and ſet Doyo-ſtreet and neighbourhood in an uproar, long before day-light. After having knocked up, and down too, ſome hundreds of brick-layers, clerks, public criers, and veſtal nymphs, he took the route of Covent-garden, and at five o'clock had a duſt kicked up at every fruit repoſitory in the market: he even aſſailed the laborious burden bearers, both male and female, and before nine had ſo completely overcome them, as to hardly leave one capable of ſtanding under a baſket of vegetables: even the athletic ſons of Hibernia, vulgarly called Iriſh chairmen, were unable to withſtand his fury, and few of them but he made to ſtagger, if he miſſed laying them low. Unſatisfied with theſe depredations, he next attacked a number of induſtrious milk carriers, and without regard to age or ſex, upſet ſome hundreds of their milk-pails. Even harmleſs tailors were interrupted in their morning avocations, and ſo furiouſly aſſailed by this notorious diſturber of good order, as to be under the neceſſity of reſigning needle, gooſe, bodkin, and ſheers, to the undaunted deſperado. During the whole day he was employed throughout the town in acts of riot and diſorder; and even made ſeveral deſperate attacks on the politer circles in the neighbourhood of St. Jame's, the weſtern ſquares, Marybone, &c.

After having thus, for nearly the whole day, kept the town in an uproar, towards duſk of evening he renewed his outrages, by attacking almoſt every public houſe in the metropolis, threatening deſtruction to butt, bottle, and bowl, unleſs his cravings were inſtantly ſatisfied with their contents. Purſuing this immoderate exceſs till paſt eleven o'clock at night, he ſallied forth into the ſtreets, annoyed many peaceable paſſengers, and rudely aſſaulted many incon light nymphs, but fortunately, at length through the vigilance of our nightly guardians, he was apprehended, and conveyed to the watch-houſe, though not before he had demoliſhed moſt of the light-givers, blackened eyes without number, and ſpilled blood without meaſure. Even here he could hardly ſubdue his natural ferocity, but at laſt recollecting his perilous ſituation, he became more reaſonable and calm, and preciſely at twelve o'clock, conſented to give ſufficient ſurety for his good behaviour for one twelvemonth, when politely taking leave, he was eſcorted ſome miles out of town by his numerous friends, who left him at highgate, in the route for Dublin.

HOUSE of COMMONS

Mr. Burke in a ſhort ſpeech moved the order of the day, that the third reſolution of the committee be now read; and the ſame being accordingly read at the table, Mr. Burke moved,

"That this houſe do now agree with the report of the ſaid committee, that Warren Haſtings, eſq. is guilty of high crimes and miſdemeanors, as expreſſed in the title of the ſaid charges."

The ſpeaker put the queſtion with great ſolemnity, and the ſame was reſolved in the affirmative, without a diviſion.

American Occurrences.

NEW-YORK, May 31.

On the 19th inſt. ſailed for Halifax, Nova Scotia, the brigantine Carleton, Donnel, maſter, laden with pear, flour, onions, and eggs, for the ſupport of our affectionate and inflexible friends in that hoſpitable, prolific, and more than ſalubrious land; a country, not only conſpicuous for its rigid, exemplary loyalty, but particularly ſalutary for "impinguiſhing" the emaciated and barren conſtitutions of every American. But why, ſays a trimmer, ſhould we complain at the exportation of our produce any where, when we have for value received? Anſwer, we have not; and to offer the reaſons would be as inſulting to every ſincere American, as unneceſſary and ineffectual to the now momentary and faſtidious foes of this land; for, as the Britiſh bottoms are the rage, to oppoſe them would be madneſs in America.

Pittſburgh, June 23.

A number of Indians came to town a few days ago, and brought in with them two packets, one to be ſent to Congreſs, the other for the ſuperintendant of Indian Affairs; we underſtand the packet for the ſuperintendant contains an account of a treaty held by eighteen different tribes of Indians laſt fall, the reſult of which was, that they ſay the treaties held between the Thirteen Fires and ſome of their chiefs, at Fort M'Intoſh and the Miami, were partial, and that the chiefs had no power to grant to the Thirteen Fires liberty to ſurvey the land which is within their claim; they requeſt a treaty may be held between them and the Thirteen Fires, at ſome place more central to them than thoſe which have already been held, that ſome meaſures may be pointed out to render the peace between them and the Thirteen Fires permanent; they forbid any ſurveyors or others, for the preſent, to attempt to ſurvey or lay off land within their claim, which extends all along the Ohio.

Accounts mention, that a party of the Mingo and Cherokee nation took nine women priſoners, a ſhort time ago, and carried them to a place called Penns Creek, though more generally known by the name of the Horſe Head Bottom, where they have built a ſmall fort, they there burnt eight of them. Some of the women were dreſſed in ſilk.

The articles of the confederation were made for the temporary purpoſes of a war; for preſſed by danger on every ſide, our immediate defence was uppermoſt in our minds, and our attention was naturally abſorbed, by objects of magnitude that ſurrounded us, while only time and reflection, could make us acquainted with more important ones at a diſtance. In this ſituation we voluntarily gave the force of law to recommendations, which we now like with common advice.

Thus the confederation, that appeared ſo perfect in its original ſtate, is become a looſe, incomplete agreement, totally inconſiſtent with its own principles. By this political compact, the United States in Congreſs, have excluſive right and power for the following purpoſes, without being able to execute one of them:

They may "make and conclude treaties;" but can only recommend the obſervance of them.

They may appoint ambaſſadors; but cannot defray even the expences of their tables.

They may borrow money in their own name, on the faith of the union; but cannot pay a dollar.

They may coin money; but cannot purchaſe an ounce of bullion.

They may make war and determine what number of troops are neceſſary; but cannot raiſe a ſingle ſoldier. In ſhort, they may declare every thing but can do nothing.

If any thing can be added to this deſcription of the impotence of our federal government, it muſt be a total want of authority over its own members.

A recent inſtance of this was experienced in the loſs of a late queſtion, the conſequence of which is, that any member may leave Congreſs, whenever he pleaſes, without their leave, or that of the ſtate he repreſents. The moſt important queſtion may therefore be loſt by the wilful abſence of one delegate.—— Since this is a true picture of our preſent ſyſtem of ſovereignty, what true friend to this country can object to the giving more power and efficacy to the laws and ordinances of the once highly reſpected and honorable Congreſs of America?

FROM official information, Meſſrs. Nevill and Ritchie learned they were to be ſuperſeded as deputy ſurveyors, the firſt day of this preſent June, before which time, this tranſaction was reconſidered, upon which they were continued deputy ſurveyors within their former diſtrict. June 20.

BY virtue of ſundry writs of venditioni exponas to me directed, will be expoſed to public ſale at Greenſburgh, at the July court, the following Tracts of Land, viz.

One tract ſituate and lying on the middle branch of Turtle Creek, adjoining lands of Peter Lond, Joſeph Sheppin and others; taken in execution as the property of Joſeph Irwin.

One tract in Huntington townſhip, known by the name of Port Royal; the property of John Emerſon.

One tract ſituate in Pitt townſhip, adjoining lands of William Elliot, John Ferrie, and others; taken in execution as the property of Robert Machan deceaſed

One tract in Huntington townſhip, adjoining lands of John M'Caw, David M'Caw and others; taken in execution as the property of John Sager.

One tract in Hempfield townſhip, adjoining lands of Charles Brookins, James Weſtby and others; taken in execution as the property of William Thomas deceaſed.

One tract in Mount Pleaſant townſhip, adjoining lands of colonel James Smith, Michael Campbell and others; taken in execution as the property of Samuel Moorehead.

One tract in Mount pleaſant townſhip, adjoining lands of Robert Worthington and others; taken in execution as the property of Ralph Cherry.

One tract in Pitt townſhip, adjoining lands of Ely Miers and others; taken in execution as the property of William Powers, deceaſed.

One tract containing 300 acres, ſituate on the Monongahela river, adjoining lands of colonel Edward Cook and others; taken in execution as the property of Edward Cook.

One tract in Ligonier Valley, adjoining the lands known by the name of Fort Ligonier; taken in execution as the property of James M'Granahan.

One tract in Fayette townſhip, on the waters of Dunbar's run near the mountains; taken in execution as the property of John Ward, and to be ſold by

June 21, 1787. WILLIAM PERRY, Sheriff

THE inhabitants of Waſhington county, will take notice, that Meſſrs. Redick & Hoge are reinſtated in their former diſtrict, conſiſting of the whole county of Waſhington, and that all ſurveys made after the firſt day of this preſent month (June 1787) will be received in the ſurveyor general's office from them only.

Abraham Uſher,

At the ſign of the SPINNING WHEEL, in Mercer's town, Franklin county, Pennſylvania;

HAS FOR SALE,

A well choſen aſſortment of European, and Eaſt and Weſt-India Goods, cheap for caſh or country produce: Amongſt which are:

BRitiſh and German oſnaburghs	Mens and womens leather ditto
Brown rolls, and Ruſſia drillings	Mens and boys felt hats
Ruſſia ſheetings, white & brown	Mens beaver and caſtor ditto
9-8 wide Iriſh ſheetings, white and brown	Womens ſilk hats and cloaks
5-4 & 6-4 Iriſh ſheetings, white	Hunters & ſwitch whips
34. 7-8. 4-4 Iriſh linens of all prices	Mens and womens thread and cotton hoſe
Brown Holland and felliſas	Mens and boys brown thread ditto
Dowlaſſes & Huckabacks	Mens and womens ſilk do.
Striped linen, holland and cotton do.	Stuff, calimanco, and durant quilts
Shirting and apron checks	Leghorn and chip hats
Corduroys, thicketts, and Veiverets	Stays; fans; & ſhirt buttons
Mohair, pluſh, and worſted ſhags	Moreens, calimancoes & durants
Pillow fuſtians,	Striped figured and plain Camelots
Jeans and Jeannets	Rattinets, tammies, and ſhalloons
Satinets, denims & printed jeanets	Buckrams, paſteboards & whalebone
Everlaſtings, and princes' ſtuffs	Scotch dunce thread of all numbers
Prunellas	Nankins
Bed ticks and bed bunts	Coloured threads
Britannias, lawns & cambricks	Superfine, ſecond & coarſe broadcloths
Humhums	3-4. 4-4. 5-4, 6-4, and 8-4 bath coatings, twilled and plain
Catgut	Bearſkins, duffils & blankets
Kentings	Plains, half thicks, herſeys, and kendal cottons
Kenting handkerchiefs & aprons	Green, red, blue & white penniſtons
Striped ſpotted and plain gauzes	Swanſkins; baizes
Gauze handkerchiefs and aprons	Spotted rugs
Jaconet and book muſlin	Red, white, and ſcarlet flannels
Chintzes, calicoes, cottons and printed linens	Pewter plates, diſhes, teapots and baſons of all ſizes
Marſeilles quilting, plain & bordered	Hardware, cutlery and ironmongery, aſſorted
Plain and corded dimity	Stationary & ſaddlery aſſorted
Printed linen and cotton handkerchiefs	Queens ware and pencil'd ware aſſorted
Check and romal ditto	Window glaſs
Bandano, luteſtring, muſlin and ſilk ditto	Salt Rum, brandy & gin of all prices
Black and pink peelongs	Sugar, coffee, tea and chocolate
Black and white ſilk cravats	Ginger, pepper and allſpice
Modes, perſians, luteſtrings and ſattins	Rice, mace, cloves, nutmegs and cinnamon
Painted and plain ribands	Almonds, raiſins, figs and prunes
Sattin and paduaſoy hair ribands	Madder, allum, copperas and indigo
Sewing ſilk, ſcarf and mohair twiſt	Saltpetre, antimony and muſtard
Baſket, death head and mohair buttons	Logwood and Redwood
Broad and narrow bindings and tapes	Glaubers ſalts, ſulphur, creamer tartar, & brimſtone
Garterings and ferretings	Snuff, ſmoaking tobacco, and pigtail
Thread edgings and laces	Powder, &c. &c.
Black and white ſilk lace	
Silk and thread ſtay laces	
Womens black & coloured ſilk mits and gloves	
Mens and womens kid, beaver, and waſh leather gloves of all colours	
Womens calimanco and everlaſting ſhoes	

CAME to the plantation of the ſubſcriber on the 1ſt of May laſt, a black Horſe, 12 years old, a ſmall bell, hung round its neck with a leather ſtrap, a natural trotter. The owner is deſired to come, prove property, pay charges, and take him away.

JOHN WALLACE

CERTIFICATES *for the* LAND OFFICE

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WHEREAS a certain Jonathan Philips did obtain ſeven ſeparate bonds of the ſubſcriber, one of which became due in April, 1787, and the remaining ſix to be paid yearly from that date, they being in conſideration of a tract of land ſaid Philips ſold to me. I do hereby forewarn all perſons from taking an aſſignment of ſaid bonds, as there is a conſiderable part of the land ſold to me which I cannot obtain, and I do not intend paying for any more than I hold unleſs compelled by law.

THOS. B. PATTERSON.

Conveyancing.

AGREEMENTS, Aſſignments, Awards, Bargains and Sales, Bills of Sale, Bonds, Covenants, Deeds, Grants, Leaſes, Letters of Attorney, Letters of Licence, Mortgages, Partnerſhip, Releaſes, Settlements, Wills, &c. &c. Drawn by the ſubſcriber at his office in Chancery-lane, Pittſburgh, at a moderate price.

June 4. ROBERT GALBRAITH.

WHEREAS my wife Roſanna Bradin, did in the month of May laſt paſt, commit adultery with Robert Hawthorne, as appeared by ſundry reſpectable witneſſes, and as ſuch a crime is ſo deteſtable againſt the laws of God and man, I am determined not to live with her any longer. Therefore I give this public notice to all perſons whatever not to credit her on my account, as I will pay no debts of her contracting after this date.

WILLIAM BRADIN.

Pittſburgh, June 7, 1787.

N. B. Ten Dollars Reward will be given by the ſubſcriber for apprehending ſaid Hawthorne.

Forty Dollars Reward.

DESERTED from my command at Venango, the following deſcribed perſons, viz.

James Robinſon, five feet eight inches high, well made, twenty-three years old, fair, freſh complexion, ſandy hair, born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Patrick Colbert, five feet, five inches high, well proportioned, dark complexion, black hair ſhort and curly, born in Ireland.

James Mortimer, five feet 5 inches high, dark complexion, ſhort black hair, born in the ſtate of New-York.

Michael Heneſy, five feet 9 inches high, a robuſt looking fellow, brown hair, a little freckled, pitted with the ſmall pox; born in Ireland.

Whoever ſecures the above deſerters, ſo that they may be brought to me at Venango, ſhall receive the above reward, or in proportion for either of them.

JONATHAN HEART, capt. 1ſt American Regiment, in the ſervice of the U. S.

WHEREAS Mr. Iſaac Craig of this place, pretended to have a title to a lot No. 256, on the corner of Short ſtreet, and now in my poſſeſſion; and as the ſaid Iſaac Craig may perhaps ſell to ſome perſon ignorant of my claim, I hereby inform the public that I conceive myſelf to have the beſt title to the ſaid lot, and that I ſhall hold it until I am put out by courſe of law.

DAVID DUNCAN.

Pittſburgh, March 8, 1787.

STRAYED or ſtolen (ſuppoſed the latter) from the weſt ſide of the Alleghany, on the road to Venango, in the night of the 25th of May laſt, two HORSES, one a black, 7 years old, 14 and an half hands high, has a number of white hairs about his head; the other a gray, 13 and an half hands high, 8 or 9 years old. Whoever takes up ſaid horſes, and delivers them to Colonel JOHN GIBSON, in Pittſburgh, ſhall receive Ten Shillings Reward for each of the ſaid Horſes, and for apprehending and proſecuting the thief or thieves to conviction, Three Pounds.

N. B. The theft is ſuppoſed to have been committed by two white men, as they were ſeen croſſing the Alleghany river on a raft with two horſes.

June 15. 1787.

BARNABAS M'SHANE,

Who has for ſome time paſt kept the Inn in Black Horſe Alley, is now removed to that old and commodious Tavern,

The Harp and Crown;

In Third Street.

HE begs leave to ſolicit the favors of his friends and the public in general, and aſſures thoſe gentlemen who formerly frequented that houſe and the Harp & Crown, that every accommodation, both for themſelves and horſes, ſhall be furniſhed in the beſt and moſt careful manner, and on the moſt reaſonable terms.

At the Printing-Office, Pittſburgh, may be had,

THE Laws of this State, paſſed between the 30th September 1775, and the Revolution.

New Teſtaments, Dilworth's Spelling Books, New England Primers (with the Catechiſm)---Weſtminſter Shorter Catechiſms, Mother's ditto. by the dozen or ſingle one.

The Principles of the Chriſtian Religion, expreſſed in plain and eaſy verſe, for children.

A Journey from Philadelphia to New-York, by way of Burlington and South-Amboy. By Robert Slender, ſtocking weaver.

Blank ledgers, journals, and receipt books.

Dutch quills, ink powder, ſealing wax, wafers, &c.

Alſo, A few books neceſſary for a learner of the French language.

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THOS. B. PATTERSON.

Conveyancing.

AGREEMENTS, Aſſignments, Awards, Bargains and Sales, Bills of Sale, Bonds, Covenants, Deeds, Grants, Leaſes, Letters of Attorney, Letters of Licence, Mortgages, Partnerſhip, Releaſes, Settlements, Wills, &c. &c. Drawn by the ſubſcriber at his office in Chancery-lane, Pittſburgh, at a moderate price.

June 4. ROBERT GALBRAITH.

WHEREAS my wife Roſanna Bradin, did in the month of May laſt paſt, commit adultery with Robert Hawthorne, as appeared by ſundry reſpectable witneſſes, and as ſuch a crime is ſo deteſtable againſt the laws of God and man, I am determined not to live with her any longer. Therefore I give this public notice to all perſons whatever not to credit her on my account, as I will pay no debts of her contracting after this date.

WILLIAM BRADIN.

Pittſburgh, June 7, 1787.

N. B. Ten Dollars Reward will be given by the ſubſcriber for apprehending ſaid Hawthorne.

Forty Dollars Reward.

DESERTED from my company at Venango, the following deſcribed perſons, viz.

James Robinſon, five feet eight inches high, well made, twenty-three years old, fair, freſh complexion, ſandy hair, born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Patrick Colbert, five feet, five inches high, well proportioned, dark complexion, black hair ſhort and curly, born in Ireland.

James Mortimer, five feet 5 inches high, dark complexion, ſhort black hair, born in the ſtate of New-York.

Michael Heneſy, five feet 9 inches high, a robuſt looking fellow, brown hair, a little freckled, pitted with the ſmall pox; born in Ireland.

Whoever ſecures the above deſerters, ſo that they may be brought to me at Venango, ſhall receive the above reward, or in proportion for either of them.

JONATHAN HEART, capt. 1ſt American Regiment, in the ſervice of the U. S.

WHEREAS Mr. Iſaac Craig of this place, pretended to have a title to a lot No. 256, on the corner of Short ſtreet, and now in my poſſeſſion; and as the ſaid Iſaac Craig may perhaps ſell to ſome perſon ignorant of my claim, I hereby inform the public that I conceive myſelf to have the beſt title to the ſaid lot, and that I ſhall hold it until I am put out by courſe of law.

DAVID DUNCAN.

Pittſburgh, March 8, 1787.

STRAYED or ſtolen (ſuppoſed the latter) from the weſt ſide of the Alleghany, on the road to Venango, in the night of the 25th of May laſt, two HORSES, one a black, 7 years old, 14 and an half hands high, has a number of white hairs about his head; the other a gray, 13 and an half hands high, 8 or 9 years old. Whoever takes up ſaid horſes, and delivers them to Colonel JOHN GIBSON, in Pittſburgh, ſhall receive Ten Shillings Reward for each of the ſaid Horſes, and for apprehending and proſecuting the thief or thieves to conviction, Three Pounds.

N. B. The theft is ſuppoſed to have been committed by two white men, as they were ſeen croſſing the Alleghany river on a raft with two horſes.

June 15, 1787.

BARNABAS M'SHANE,

Who has for ſome time paſt kept the Inn in Black Horſe Alley, is now removed to that old and commodious Tavern,

The Harp and Crown,

In Third Street.

HE begs leave to ſolicit the favors of his friends and the public in general, and aſſures thoſe gentlemen who formerly frequented that houſe and the Harp & Crown, that every accommodation, both for themſelves and horſes, ſhall be furniſhed in the beſt and moſt careful manner, and on the moſt reaſonable terms.

At the Printing-Office, Pittſburgh, may be had,

THE Laws of this State, paſſed between the 30th September 1775, and the Revolution.

New Teſtaments, Dilworth's Spelling Books, New England Primers (with the Catechiſm)---Weſtminſter Shorter Catechiſms, Mother's ditto. by the dozen or ſingle one.

The Principles of the Chriſtian Religion, expreſſed in plain and eaſy verſe, for children.

A Journey from Philadelphia to New-York, by way of Burlington and South-Amboy. By Robert Sleader, ſtocking weaver.

Blank ledgers, journals, and receipt books, &c. Dutch quills, ink powder, ſealing wax, wafers, &c.

Alſo, A few books neceſſary for a learner of the French language.